(ii) Coal is produced in a large number of locations. Freight subsidy with too many producing centres and for a large quantity would pose insuperable difficulties.

Shutting Down of Oil Wells

1773. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the replies given on August 28, 1990 and February 26, 1991 Unstarred Question Nos. 3262 and SQ. 60 respectively regarding shutting down of oil well and state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the report of the Committee of technical experts; and

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the Committee, the action taken by the Government thereon and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAD): (a) and (b) The report is under the consideration of the Government.

Power Connections to Unauthorised Colonies

1774. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "JJ Power connections breed encroachment" appearing in the Indian Express dated March 22, 1991;

(b) if so, the details of action likely to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether the survey has been conducted in Delhi to determine the number of persons who have taken light direct from the poles; if so, the details thereof, area-wise;

(d) whether employees of Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking are also involved in this power theft; and

(e) if so, the action taken against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (e) No formal survey has been conducted by DESU to determine the number of persons who have taken light direct from the poles. However, according to DESU, there are more than 600 JJ Clusters in Delhi and the inhabitants of such areas illegally draw electricity by direct tapping from the street light poles provided by the Delhi Development Authority/Delhi Administration. Attempts made by DESU to prevent theft of power in such cases is resisted by unlawful elements of the localities creating law and order problems. DESU does not support the observations made in the said news item that the provision of power connections to JJ Clusters and unauthorised colonies encourages illegal encroachment. DESU carries out the electrification of only those unauthorised colonies which are covered under the directions issued by the Delhi Administration/ Delhi Electricity Control Order, 1959. In case the unauthorised constructions/encroachments are removed by the concerned authorities, DESU can remove its service lines. Specific cases of connivance of DESU staff in the theft of power are looked into by DESU for appropriate action.

Opening of Booking Centres in Hilly Areas, U.P.

1775. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer the reply given on May 22, 1991 to Unstarred Question No. 9819 regarding Rail-cum-Road reservation centres (Out

Agencies) in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh and state:

(a) whether the booking centres (Out Agencies) have since been opened;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to expedite opening of such centres and the time schedule thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Out Agencies for Rail-cum-Road reservations have not been opened so for at the said places due to lack of response shown by the public as well as concerned agencies of State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) Provision of Rail-cum-road reservations facilities in hilly areas of U.P. will be considered as soon as suitable contractors are found to take up the contracts as per standard terms and conditions.

Financial Assistance by REC to Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board

1776. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of subsidy/loan given by the Rural Electrification Corporation to the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board for the purpose of rural electrification in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the objectives achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The Rural Electrification Corporation has, upto 31st March, 1991, provided Rs. 539.51 lakhs as grant and Rs. 61341 lakhs as loan to UPSEB for the purpose of rural electrification in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) According to UPSEB, 42,840 villages in the State have been electrified and 252840 pumpsets have been energised upto 31-3-91. Further, 2,17,046 single-point connections were also provided to the weaker sections, utilising the grant amount.

Smokeless Chulhas

1777. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the targets and the actual achievement with regard to setting up of smokeless chulhas, State-wise;

(b) the details of the scheme and the implementing agencies, State-wise; and

(c) the overall progress of this scheme since its inception?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) State-wise targets and achievements for the installation of improved chulhas is given in the attached statement-I.

(b) Implementation of National Programme on Improved Chulhas is being carried out through various State Government Departments, Implementing Agencies, Autonomous Bodies and Voluntary Organisations. Actual installation is done through trained work force of Self Employed Workers engaged on contract basis by the Implementing Agencies, Financial support to users, Self Employed Workers, Implementing Agencies & Improved Chulha Technical Backup Units, is provided under the National Programme. Financial Support to the users in the form of subsidy is given in the attached statement-II. State-wise list of Implementing Agencies is given in the attached statement-III.

(c) Under the National Programme on Improved Chulha, little over one crore improved chulhas have been installed against a target of about 83 lakh since inception and upto 31st March, 1991.